

NEWS RELEASE

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WEST FRANKFORT WOMAN INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH DRUG-RELATED DEATH

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that a federal grand jury indicted a West Frankfort woman for providing a powerful synthetic opiate to a West Frankfort girl that later led to the girl's death. **Jennifer Lynn Krieger**, 37, of West Frankfort, Illinois was charged in a single count indictment with distribution of fentanyl resulting in death. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The federal offense carries a penalty of not less than 20 years' imprisonment up to life, a fine of up to \$1,000,000 and a term of 3 years' supervised release.

Krieger had earlier been charged in a criminal complaint and held without bond. Because the federal Constitution requires that all those brought to trial be first indicted by a grand jury, prosecutors were required to pursue the grand jury indictment. According to the previously filed complaint, **Krieger** provided the fentanyl to the West Frankfort 19 year-old by providing her a Duragesic gel patch. Duragesic patches contain fentanyl which is a powerful synthetic opiate, 100 times more potent than morphine. The patches are supposed to be used for chronic pain relief.

The investigation was conducted by the West Frankfort Police Department, the Illinois State Police, the Franklin County State's Attorney, the COMIT Drug Task Force, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tom Leggans.